

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /083 W

----- 129812

R 140655Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4408

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 6376

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ID

SUBJ: THE CORRUPTION ISSUE

SUMMARY: CHAIRMAN OF SUPREME ADVISORY COUNCIL (DPA) STATED MAY 10 THAT THERE EXISTS A DANGEROUS TREND TOWARD INCREASING CORRUPTION IN INDONESIA BASED ON CRIMINAL COALITION OF ADVENTURERS, FINACIERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. STATEMENT GOT HEADLINES IN MOST JAKARTA PAPERS,INSPIRED CARTOONS IN SEVERAL, AND EDITORIALS IN PROMINENT DAILIES KOMPAS AND MERDEKA. STATEMENT ILLUSTRATES INCREASING GOI CONCERN WITH ITS IMAGE IN PRE-ELECTION PERIOD. END SUMMARY.

1. CHAIRMAN OF SUPREME ADVISORY COUNCIL (DPA) WILOPO, SH, TOLD NEWSMEN MAY10 THAT THERE WERE ELEMENTS IN SOCIETY WHO WERE STEERING INDONESIA IN THE DIRECTION OF DEGENERATION AND CREATING A DANGEROUS SITUATION. WILOPO SAID THESE ELEMENTS CONSTITUTED A DESTRUCTIVE TRIO ENGAGED IN CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY, MADE UP OF ADVENTURERS, FINACIERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. WILOPO SAID COLLUSION OF  
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THESE ELEMENTS IS DIDDICULT TO PROVE LEGALLY BUT SOONER

OR LATER CONSPIRACY WILL BE UNMASKED. HE NOTED DPA NOW DISCUSSING QUESTION OF "NATIONAL AWARENESS AND DISCIPLINE", AND CHARGED THAT GOI WAS ANGRY THAT CERTAIN LEVIES PREVIOUSLY ELIMINATED TO FACILITATE SUPPORT OF EXPORT PROGRAMS ARE STILL BEING IMPOSED ILLEGALLY BY SOME OFFICIALS. WILOPO SAID DPA HOPES FOR IMPROVEMENT OF GOVERNMENT APPARATUS AND NATIONAL MORALITY THROUGH EDUCATION BY STATE AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING RELIGIOUS COUNCILS.

2. WILOPO STATEMENTS INSPIRED EDITORIAL COMMENT FROM LEADING DAILY KOMPAS MAY 12, WHICH NOTED THAT CORRUPTION IS ONLY POSSIBLE BECAUSE THERE ARE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO CAN EASILY BE BOUGHT DUE TO THEIR GREED. KOMPAS SAID CORRUPT OFFICIALS ARE BROUGHT TOGETHER WITH UNSCRUPULOUS FINANCIERS THROUGH ASSISTANCE OF ADVENTURERS AND PURSUE THEIR GOAL OF QUICKLY ACQUIRING HUGE PROFITS, UNHINDERED BY LAWS AND REGULATIONS WHICH THEY CAN ALWAYS ARRANGE TO HAVE SET ASIDE. THE PAPER SAID FIRST STEP IN FIGHTING THIS CONSPIRACY IS TO PURIFY GOVERNMENT APPARATUS AND, WHILE ADMITTING THIS WOULD NOT BE EASY, NOTED THAT SUCCESS WOULD BE MORE LIKELY IF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS COULD BE PERSUADED TO PUT PATRIOTISM AHEAD OF SELF-INTEREST.

3. LEFTIST-NATIONALIST MERDEKA ALSO CARRIED EDITORIAL MAY 12 ON WILOPO'S STATEMENT, CALLING FOR NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TO INTERVENE PROMPTLY TO PREVENT OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN CORRUPTION FROM BECOMING "AN ELITE THAT IS INCREASINGLY FEARED AND HATED". MERDEKA SAID LEADERS SHOULD IMPROVE MENTALITY OF THEIR OWN GROUP AND DARE TO PUNISH "OWN SONS". FUTURE GENERATIONS, IT ADDED, MUST NOT CONDONE THE WRONG WAYS OF PRESENT-DAY LEADERS.

4. WILOPO'S STATEMENT GOT HEADLINES IN MOST JAKARTA PAPERS MAY 11 AND INSPIRED CARTOONS DEPICTING "DESTRUCTIVE TRIO" IN KOMPAS, MERDEKA, AND POS KOTA, A SENSATIONAL TABLOID POPULAR WITH JAKARTA MASSES. KOMPAS EDITORIAL WAS REPRINTED ALMOST VERBATIM BY SENI-OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY ANTARA LATE SAME DAY.  
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5. COMMENT: WILOPO'S STATEMENT AND ATTENTION GIVEN IT BY NEWS MEDIA ILLUSTRATE INCREASING GOI CONCERN WITH ITS PUBLIC IMAGE IN PRE-ELECTION PERIOD. WHILE CORRUPTION IS DESCRIBED AS COLLUSION OF ALL THREE ELEMENTS INVOLVED, MAJOR CRITICISM IS DIRECTED AT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. MERDEKA'S REFERENCE TO OBLIGATION OF LEADERS TO CONTROL OWN GROUP AND DISCIPLINE "OWN SONS" IS OBVIOUS BUT INDIRECT

ATTACK ON PRESIDENT SUHARTO AND SENIOR MILITARY AIDES,  
SOME OF WHOSE FAMILIES ARE NOTORIOUSLY INVOLVED IN  
CORRUPTION REFERENCE TO CONTINUING COLLECTION OF  
OFFICIALLY ELIMINATED TAXES ON COMMODITIES FOR EXPORT  
ILLUSTRATES DIFFICULTY FREQUENTLY EXPERIENCED BY  
NATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN COMPLETELY CONTROLLING ACTIONS  
OF PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES. ILLEGAL COLLECTION  
OF THESE TAXES HITS COMMODITIES PRODUCERS IN RURAL AREAS  
AT A TIME WHEN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IS BEGINNING TO  
SEEK POLITICAL SUPPORT FROM THOSE AREAS.  
NEWSOM

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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